

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 2-7 and 9-15, and add new claims 16-22 as set forth below.

1. (original) Papermachine clothing comprising machine direction (MD) yams and cross-machine direction (CD) yams interwoven in a repeat pattern such that, on at least one side of the fabric, as part of the weave pattern, two adjacent machine direction yams extend over the same CD yam as a pair with one of said pair of MD yams extending above the other of said pair such that said other yam is protected from abrasion.
2. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the CD yams are provided in two systems, as a first CD yam system and a second CD yam system.
3. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 2, wherein the two CD yam systems are provided alternately through the fabric.
4. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing as claimed in claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, wherein the first CD yam system comprises stacked upper and lower yams.
5. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in any of claims 2,3 or 4 of claim 2~~, wherein the second CD yam system comprises a single yam.
6. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4, wherein YARNS of a first MD yam system extend inbetween the upper and lower yams of the first CD yam system.
7. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 6, wherein yams of a second MD yam system extends over one of the upper or lower yams of the first CD yam system and over the yam of the second CD yam system.
8. (original) Papermachine clothing comprising machine direction (MD) yams and cross-machine direction (CD) yams interwoven in a repeat pattern, wherein the CD yams are provided in two systems, the first CD yam system comprising upper and lower yams, the second CD yam system comprising at least one yam, the first and second CD systems being provided alternately

throughout the fabric, and wherein the MD yarns are provided in two systems, the first MD yarn system extending in between the upper and lower yarns of the first CD yarn system and over the at least one yarn of the second CD yarn system and individual yarns of the second MD yarn system extending around one of the upper or lower yarns of the first CD yarn system and the at least one yarn of the second CD yarn system, and wherein two adjacent machine direction yarns from different MD yarn systems extend as a pair over the same CD yarn of the second CD yarn system with one of said pair of MD yarns extending above the other of said pair such that said other yarn is protected from abrasion.

9. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ of claim 8, wherein the MD yarns are flat in cross-section.

10. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 9, wherein the dimensions of the MD yams are in the range from 0.30-0.45 x 0.50-0.80mm

11. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ of claim 8, wherein the CD yarns are round in cross-section.

12. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in claim 2 or~~ of claim 8, wherein the diameter of CD yarns in the first CD yarn system is in the range from 0.20 to 0.80mm.

13. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in claim 2 or~~ of claim 8, wherein the diameter of the CD yarns in the second CD yarn system is in the range from 0.50 to 1.50mm.

14. (currently amended) Papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ of claim 8, having a permeability in the range from 90-300CM.

15. (currently amended) The use of papermachine clothing ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ of claim 8 as a dryer fabric in a papermaking machine.

16. (new) Papermachine clothing of claim 1, wherein the MD yarns are flat in cross-section.

17. (new) Papermachine clothing of claim 16, wherein the dimensions of the MD yarns are in the range from 0.30-0.45 x 0.50-0.80mm

18. (new) Papermachine clothing of claim 1, wherein the CD yarns are round in cross-section.

19. (new) Papermachine clothing of claim 2, wherein the diameter of CD yarns in the first CD yarn system is in the range from 0.20 to 0.80mm.

20. (new) Papermachine clothing of claim 2, wherein the diameter of the CD yarns in the second CD yarn system is in the range from 0.50 to 1.50mm.

21. (new) Papermachine clothing of claim 1, having a permeability in the range from 90-300CM.

22. (new) The use of papermachine clothing of claim 1 as a dryer fabric in a papermaking machine.